Introduction:

A pandemic is a global epidemic or disease outbreak. These pandemics are mass murderers since time immemorial as history shows. Diseases like Plague, Smallpox, Influenza and Cholera have ruined families, destroyed towns and left generation scarred and scared.Since the relationship between literature and society is axiomatic, it not only throws a mirror to nature but also before men and manners of the age,to the society of the times. Then how will Pandemic fail to appear in the literature of the times? Nay,whenever such calamities occurred on the earth, the creativity of the then time writers had unvarnishedly caught the crisis of the time.The beginning of 2020 witnessed this havoc firstly in Wuhan Hubei province of China and from there grabbed its ‘global networking ‘ through Europe and many other parts of the world,i.e.COVID 19 shook the whole world through community transmission, lockdown, quarantine phase,death tallies, Work from Home with salary cut,job loss leading to more hunger and financial crunch. The survivors got to know the gravity of situation resulting in the resurgence of interest in the earlier Pandemic writing as “ it provides us deepest and insightful record of events during Pandemics and tries to provide consolation in times of need" since nothing in life is permanent and *this tide will also pass* is the hopeful tinge above all adversity.

Keywords: Pandemic, creativity, crisis

Significance:

1) The thesis will definitely furnish valuable insights for future generations that the difficulties in the form of calamities, pandemic descend on earth to strengthen our moral as well as spiritual muscles.

2) To optimise the readers with the thought that there is a light at the end of every tunnel. So *if winter is there,will spring be far behind?*

3) To inculcate eco- sensibility in the minds of audience with a pantheistic tinge that the nature is not to be vanquished being a supreme force permeating the activities of the Universe.

4) The research will work in the direction of emboldening the survivors by withdrawing them from the *escapist shackle of comfort zone* and make them welcome a *new normal set* up with a constructive lens.

Limitations:

The study is confined only to nature born pandemics that descend every hundred years on earth with full involvement of saturated, paranormal, negative forces and not artificially born Man- made disasters like nuclear explosion, Bhopal Gas leak Industrial Disaster and all, which do leave perennial Imprints on our lives.

Objectives:

1) To make the readers realize that Pandemic is an equanimous foe that devours population from top to grassroots level.

2) To sensitise the audience about the physical as well as emotional aspects of Pandemic impact that *in earlier centuries the people died not from the plague but were plagued by the death.*

3) To identify the similarities and dissimilarities in the writings of Oriental and Occidental literature foreshadowing Pandemic Plight.

4) To throw a flood of light on the *meanest* as well as *humane* side of situation.

Hypothesis:

Pandemic writing irrespective of time,locale,milieu, language shows similar behavioural *glocal* pattern in the form of fear, consternation, irrationality,selfishness and the last but not the least refuge in Almighty ‘s abode through prayer to seek solace.

Methodology:

1) Type of the Research:

   In this study, the researcher will be resorting to Descriptive- Qualitative Method.

2) Type of Data Required for the Study:

   A) Primary Data:

      The primary data source of the study are the Fictions hinging round pandemics, Diseases to have plagued the World in different eras irrespective of language, locale, nationalities.

   B) Secondary Data: The secondary sources of data comprise the background information of the writers in keeping with 'pandemic light' and various other socio- economical, cultural forces to have shaped the literary outputs the then time.

3) Techniques of Data Collection:

   In this case, the researcher will be using two techniques of collecting data:

   a) Observation: This step will be used to make the research work more penetrative, by reaching the depth of the matter which involves actual reading of the texts.

   b) Library Research:

      This involves reading Newspapers, Magazines, Interviews of the writers, book Reviews etc. Focused on the Pandemic Creativity.

4) Technique of Data Analysis:

   The thesis will be Descriptive and Qualitative and so the creativity of the writers will be elucidated in pandemic milieu when the context itself is Oxymoron!

CHAPETR 1

Introduction:

As we all know, Pandemics are mass murderers. Diseases like Plague, Smallpox, Influenza and Cholera ruin families, destroy towns and leave a generation scarred and scared, being "an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing International boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people."[1]Theologically speaking, it occurs every hundred years when the earth finds it difficult to bear the burden of sins by people, leaving the land utterly barren, morally and spiritually. So, the deluge in the form of flood, earthquake, Volcano, tsunami, tornado overtakes the earth to make an end of this drasticity and to cause a big turnover, thus a balancing act, in keeping with harmony with the words by Alfred Lord Tennyson in *Morte d' Arthur:*

The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world

Whether it is Endemic or Pandemic, diseases both real and fictional have made a theme of literature since time immemorial. *Huntington's Disease* and tuberculosis have accompanied many creative geniuses in singing "the sweet, sad songs'. 'The Andromeda Strain' (1969),the techno- thriller novel by Michael Crichton deserves a special mention, documenting the efforts of a team of scientists investigating the outbreak of a deadly extra- terrestrial microorganism in Arizona, threatening all human lives. Go back to fourteenth Century, Genuine plague has been the theme of creative pursuits. Giovanni Boccaccio 's ' The Decameron' (C.1353) bears testimony to this. Boccacio unfolds the tales of ten people of Florence who escape from the 'Black Death' in their city. The book inspired Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th Century Canterbury Tales, which similarly tells the stories of people or pilgrimage in a time of plague. Tuberculosis was a common disease in the 19th century and it appeared in several major works of

Russian literature, tinged with consumptive nihilism. Whether it is Fyodor Dostoevsky through his mouthpiece Katerina Ivanovna in ‘ Crime and Punishment’ or kirillov in ‘ The Possessed', Pandemic Plight could not divorce itself from literature. Victorian literature too incorporated the milieu of tuberculosis, the fact getting evident with Charles Dickens ‘s ‘ Dombey and Sons' (1848), Elizabeth Gaskell's ‘ North and South' (1855)and Mrs. Humphrey Ward's ‘ Eleanor' (1900). On the whole, in every era, Pandemic Literature, too, is going to be one of the important trends in literatures, irrespective of language, locale, nationalities, canvassing the vast gamut of journey from a ‘ New normal' to a ‘near normal’ with blended living and major eye on ‘ past, Good Gold days' to retrieve.

So,the first chapter of the thesis will definitely be the background information pertaining to Pandemic and its repercussions on the then literature over the ages including Apocalyptic as well as Post-apocalyptic.

CHAPETR 2

Under the tentative scheme of chapterisation, the second section will throw a flood of light on Apocalyptic and Post- apocalyptic Writing (with special Reference to Fiction as Literary Genre) alluding Pandemic. So there will be References to Bible, Quran, Puranas in which Almighty God or some divine force appears before the leading character and prophesies about the forthcoming calamity, showing them the path whereas Post- apocalyptic texts pinpoint the plight after devastating and the huge turnover with total obliteration of past along with their compromising with the situation in the wake of adapting to the 'new normal 'set up. *The Last Man* (1826) by Mary Shelley as Apocalyptic fiction will be appraised here whereas *The Scarlet Plague* (1912) and *The Eyes of Darkness* (1981) by Dean Koontz as Post- apocalyptic fictions.

CHAPETR 3

The third chapter titled *Pen and the Pandemic: An Overview* will foreshadow the literary attempts by creative artists over the period of time. *There has always been literature of Pandemic because there have always been Pandemics.* And this literature of Plague and Pestilence is going to be distinct to normal romances or *escapist* strata. Since, in this phase the people ultimately get immune to crisis and find out a way amidst darkness and doom. Because of this, Pandemic literature one cannot downrightly label to be pessimistic but melioristic. The despair expressed by the characters will be the negativity for those who refuse to call axe an axe, purposely oblivating the thorny side of situation through word jugglery. Complacent optimism may be absent but ultimately ‘God is in the heaven and everything (will be) right in the world ‘is always the recurrent tone overtly or covertly. ‘A Journal of the Plague Year ‘(1722) by Daniel Defoe, ‘The Plague' (1947) by Albert Camus and ‘Love in the Time of Cholera' will be scrutinised here as Pandemic Melioristic Fictions.

CHAPETR 4

‘Pandemic through Indian Literary Lens with Reference to Selected Novels‘ can be schematised as the fourth chapter since each country is having its different way of handling the situation despite the similar behavioural pattern in the wake of different socioeconomic and political *milieu*. So, safety measures like physical distancing, wearing masks, vaccination drive, complete lockdown or lockdown restrictions in the form of curfew, constructive use of quarantine will be responded differently. Rabindranath Tagore's ‘Chaturanga' (1916), Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's ‘Pallisamj',’Panditmasay' and many others will be brought into connection here. The distortion of Physical distancing bears validity even in this twenty first century when the discourse experts like Ganesh Devi raised attention of experts regarding this ethnocentric tinge amidst Covid-19 pandemic phase.

CHAPETR 5

The fifth chapter will be tentatively titled as ‘Pandemic Plight Reflected in World Literature’. Being a glocal crisis, the pandemic is no more bias to a particular locale. The worldwide literature written during pandemic will be elucidated with sound treatment.

Conclusion :

The researcher is of the opinion that everything happens with an intention. So, this pandemic phase too has given new perspectives to live and survive since time immemorial. That is the reason why all the novels appraised will be scrutinised under 'didactic eyes' apart from the moroseness, zeroness reflected as a result of Pandemic Panic. Because wisdom is not a station one arrives at but a manner of traveling, after all.

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PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC APPROVAL TO BE SUBMITED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MUMBA1 FOR THE DEGREE OF Ph.D (ARTS) DEGREE IN THE SUBJECT OF **ENGLISH**

Title of topic	THE PANDEMIC IS A GATEWAY TO CREATIVITY: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF SELECTED ORIENTAL AND OCCIDENTAL PANDEMIC FICTIONS
Name of the student	MS. PRAJAKTA SHARAD RAUT
Basic Qualification	M.A. (ENGLISH)
In the case of Ph,D. student Year of Passing of PET/NET/SET/GATE/M.Phil (Teaching Experience)	SET 2006
Name of the Research Supervisor/ Guide	Dr. Bharat Tupere
Date of Superannuation/ Retirement	
Name of the Research Center	UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI, KALINA, SANTACRUZ EAST, MUMBAI
Signature of student	
Signature of research Supervisor/Guide	
Date of Submission of Research Proposal	